

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 ERDA-05 AF-10
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DRAFTED BY ACDA/MA/IR:ARTURRENTINE
APPROVED BY ACDA/MA/IR:CCFLOWERREE
EA/ANP:WGALLAGHER (SUBS)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NZ

SUBJECT: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE:
CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND

1. ON JUNE 14, NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY
(LARKINDALE) WAS ASKED IN BY ACDA (MA/IR) TO FULFILL
EARLIER OFFER TO DISCUSS US POSITION REGARDING SEABED
ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE (REVCON) WHICH
WILL MEET JUNE 20-JULY 1, 1977, IN GENEVA.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE WITH RESPECT TO US OBJECTIVES
AT SEABED REVCON:

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A. IN GENERAL THE USG BELIEVES THAT THE SEABED TREATY HAS
FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE REVCCN
COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.

B. SINCE THERE HAS NOT BEEN AND THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE
PROSPECT OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED, THE USG DOES NOT
BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ACTIVELY PURSUE FURTHER

MULTILATERAL SEABED ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AT THIS TIME.

C. THE USG SEES NO NEED TO AMEND THE SEABED TREATY AT THIS TIME, AND THE AMENDMENT PROCESS OF ARTICLE VI IS DISTINCT FROM THE REVIEW PROCESS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE VII.

HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR OTHER CHANGES TO DISCUSS THE BEST WAY FOR DEALING WITH THEM.

D. IN PARTICULAR, THE USG WOULD LIKE TO ENSURE THAT LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES DO NOT INTRUDE INTO THE REVCON.

E. USG WISHES TO SEE SEABED TREATY REVIEW PROCESS CARRIED OUT IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND ORDERLY WAY, AND WISHES TO AVOID CREATING UNHELPFUL PRECEDENTS WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY IMPACT ON FUTURE REVIEW CONFERENCES OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

3. LARKINDALE SAID THAT US AND NEW ZEALAND POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO REVCON SEEM TO BE ALMOST IDENTICAL. HE NOTED THAT US DELEGATION TO CCD HAD MET FREQUENTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEW ZEALAND MISSION IN GENEVA TO BRIEF ON CCD DEVELOPMENTS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS INFORMALLY ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES SUCH AS REVCON. LARKINDALE SAID THAT HE HAD FOUND THE REPORTS ON THESE EXCHANGES USEFUL AND EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CLOSER CONSULTATIONS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES IN WASHINGTON, IN PARTICULAR ON THOSE ISSUES THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE PROMONENT AT UNGA THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FALL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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